

Message Text

SECRET

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20

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /093 W
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O P 180705Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3875

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANAA 1227

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, YE, SA

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR STERNER'S CONVERSATION WITH MUHAMMAD

AHMED NU'MAN

FOR AMBASSADOR STOLTZFUS

REF: ABU DHABI 772

1. PURSUANT HIS REQUEST REFTEL, I WOULD APPRECIATE
YOUR PASSING OUR COMMENTS TO HIS QUESTIONS IN PARA 3.

2. DISPUTE BETWEEN AL-AHMAR AND AL-HAMDI DERIVED
FROM AL-AHMAR'S JUNE 12-13 THREAT TO OCCUPY SANAA BY
FORCE AND HAMDI'S DETERMINATION USE ARMY TO RESIST.
AL-AHMAR, CONFRONTED WITH ARMY'S SUPERIOR FORCE, SAW
HANDWRITING ON WALL AND RESIGNED VOLUNTARILY
RATHER THAN BEING FORCED TO DO SO. HIS RESIGNATION
PAVED WAY FOR QTE FREEZING UNQTE OF CONSULTATIVE
ASSEMBLY WHICH WAS A KEY HAMDI OBJECTIVE.

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3. AL-AYNI-ABU LUHUM GROUP IS MANEUVERING WITH

SKILL AND SPEED TO MAXIMIZE ITS POSITION OF INFLUENCE
WITHIN AND OUTSIDE COMMAND COUNCIL, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF
VACUUM CAUSED BY DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT AND AHMAD
NU'MAN, DECLINE IN INFLUENCE OF OTHER CIVILIAN LEADERS,
AND APPARENT RAPPORT BETWEEN HAMDI AND AL-AYNI. ITS
OBJECTIVE IS CLEARLY TO BURY WHOLE QUESTION OF REFERENCES
TO AL-AYNI IN IRAQI COUP DOCUMENTS AND BOOST HIM AS THE
PRE-EMINENT CANDIDATE FOR PRIMIN WHEN POWER RETURNS TO
CIVILIAN HANDS. IN THIS REGARD, TO BE NOTED THAT
HAMDI'S DECISIONS SUSPENDING CONSTITUTION, FREEZING
CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY, ABOLISHING YEMENI UNION, AND
DISBANDING PREVIOUS STRUCTURE OF MILITARY
COMMAND MEET ALL CONDITIONS EARLIER LAID DOWN BY
AL-AYNI FOR RESUMPTION OF PRIME MINISTRY. WE HAVE SOME
REPORTS INDICATING THAT HAMDI AND AL-AYNI MAY HAVE HAD
PRIVATE UNDERSTANDING ON THIS SINCE LONG BEFORE JUNE 13
COUP. SAUDIS, HERE AT LEAST, SEEM TO BE TAKING UNEXPECTEDLY
RELAXED ATTITUDE TOWARD PREPARATORY MANEUVERING BY SHAIKH
SINAN AND AL-AYNI'S RETURN, EVIDENTLY HAVING CONFIDENCE
IN HAMDI'S ABILITY TO KEEP POWER AND DECISION-MAKING
IN HIS HANDS. WE WONDER IF THIS APPARENT UNCONCERN
WILL NOT CHANGE IF SAG COMES TO PERCEIVE, AS WE ALREADY
DO, A REAL CHANCE THAT AL-AYNI WILL BE YARG'S NEXT
PRIMIN. IN SUCH CASE, DANGER EXISTS SAG MIGHT BEGIN STIMULATE
AL-AHMAR TO HARRY HAMDI RATHER THAN AS AT PRESENT ENCOURAGING
HIS COOPERATION WITH AND SUPPORT OF COMMAND COUNCIL.
CRAWFORD

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